

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5261
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
PROBLEM IN GETTING VISA FOR USA
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indian professionals are facing problem in getting Visa for USA;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Government of USA during this recent visit to that country; and
- (c) if so, the response of the US Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a): Government is aware that the US Government has imposed restrictions on hiring foreign workers with H-1B visas by US firms receiving bailout money under the Troubled Assets Relief Programme (TARP). Companies that have received federal bailout money are mostly banks, insurance companies and auto companies. The new guidelines require that a company receiving TARP funds and applying for workers under H-1B must operate as an "H-1B dependent company". That means it should attest to actively recruiting American workers, not displacing American workers with H-1B visa holders; and not replacing laid off American workers with foreign workers. The H-1B dependent companies are those which have 15% of their workforce carrying H-1B visas. According to NASSCOM, the H-1B visa restrictions may not affect employees of Indian outsourcing companies as they do not receive TARP support.

(b): The Government of India is fully committed to protecting the interests of Indian professionals working in USA. In our regular interaction with the US Government, we have been conveying that employment protectionism does not help USA or any other country, nor it is good for the global economic order. It has been our constant endeavour to sensitize the US authorities about the fact that India is the largest contributor of highly skilled workers to the US economy and any protectionist policy would hurt the interests of US companies the most.

(c): The Government of USA has taken note of the Government of India's concerns in this regard.